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**ICH Youth Committee**  
February 28, 2019

# BACKGROUND



# Background

- *The End Youth Homelessness Act* of 2014 requires that the District of Columbia conduct a youth-specific homeless census every year.
- TCP has completed the Homeless Youth Census – aka “Youth Count DC” – on behalf of DHS every year since its inception in 2015.
- Youth Committee of the District ICH and other community partners coordinate with TCP to conduct the count.
- The 2018 Youth Count DC was the fourth census completed in the District of Columbia.

# Background

- Information gathered informed *Solid Foundations* the District's strategic plan to end youth homelessness.
- Data is used in **Continuum of Care and District planning** to make decisions about resource allocation.
- Youth Count data are a **powerful advocacy tool** for providers and other stakeholder groups.



# Background

## 2018 PLANNING:

- Worked to bring new partners to the table;
- Coordinated with *Through the Eyes of Youth* for planning and implementation;
- Enhanced survey to collect information on the fluidity of youth homelessness.





# METHODOLOGY

# Methodology

## **POPULATION:**

### **AGE**

- Transition Age Youth (TAY), 18 to 24 years old
- Unaccompanied Minors, under 18 years old

### **HOUSING STATUS**

- Literally Homeless (unsheltered or in emergency shelter/transitional housing)
- Unstably-housed (i.e. “doubled-up” or “couch surfing”)

### **HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

- Unaccompanied
- Young families (Head of household is 24 years old or younger)



# Methodology

The Youth Census is **youth-led and youth-informed**. Youth participation is encouraged and their participation will be incentivized.

## *PLANNING*

- Focus groups (hot-spot mapping, survey instrument fine-tuning, surveyor training recommendations)
- Outreach material dissemination; peer-to-peer pre-outreach

## *IMPLEMENTATION*

- Joining field-based teams
- Conducting site-based surveys





**2018  
YOUTH COUNT DC**

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Totals

Nighttime Locations, most often stayed at in previous 30 days

Population	Total Population	Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing <sup>†</sup>	Unsheltered Location	Unstably-Housed	Permanent Housing or Institution <sup>††</sup>	Unknown Location <sup>‡</sup>
<b>All Persons</b>						
All Persons	<b>1328</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>Household Composition</b>						
<b>Singles</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>177</b>
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	712	55%	15%	28%	3%	149
<i>Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)</i>	70	21%	10%	55%	14%	28
<b>Family Heads of Household</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>80</b>
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	534	49%	3%	44%	4%	79
<i>Minors (Under 18)</i>	12	9%	9%	73%	9%	1

<sup>†</sup> Includes youth counted in ES/TH program if they stayed there most often during the previous 30 days, using HMIS records.

<sup>††</sup> Respondent mostly stayed in a permanent housing arrangement or institutional setting but indicated that they will not have safe & stable housing in the next 30 days; they are in imminent risk of homelessness.

<sup>‡</sup> Respondent did not provide most often nighttime location, but indicated that they mostly did not have safe and stable housing in the previous 30 days and/or will not have safe and stable housing in the next 30 days. Unknown locations are not included in prevalence.

## Slide 11

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**WK(1** I think it will be helpful to spend a little itme explaining the last two rows - why they have been included this year and how they have impacted the numbers.

Waller, Kimberly (EOM), 2/26/2019

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Totals

## **Sheltered**

- Emergency or Temporary Shelter
- Safe Haven
- Transitional Housing Program

## **Unsheltered**

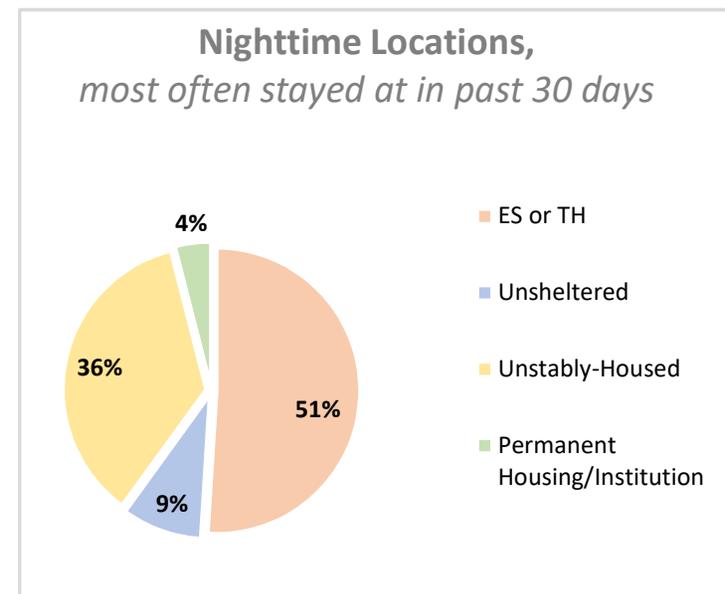
- Car or vehicle
- Abandoned building/vacant unit/squat
- On a train/bus or in a train/bus station
- 24-hr restaurant/laundromat/other business
- Anywhere outside (street, park, riverbed, etc.)

## **Unstably-Housed**

- Couch-surfing or staying house-to-house with friends or relatives because you needed a place to stay
- Somewhere with someone you don't know well because you needed a place to stay
- Hotel or motel because you don't have your own housing

## **Permanent Housing/Institution**

- Your own house or apt. that you pay rent for
- House or apt. of parent/guardian or significant other where you can stay long-term as part of a household
- Hospital/emergency room/detox/rehab/other treatment facility
- Juvenile detention/jail/prison
- Group home or foster family home



# 2018 Youth Count DC: Changes, 2017-2018

Population	2018 Youth	2017 Youth	Difference 2017-2018	% Change 2017-2018
<b>All Persons</b>				
All Persons	<b>1328</b>	<b>1117</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Household Composition</b>				
<b>Singles</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>20%</b>
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	711	600	114	19%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)</i>	70	56	14	25%
<b>Family Heads of Household (HoH)</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>18%</b>
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	532	454	78	17%
<i>Minors (Under 18)</i>	12	7	5	71%

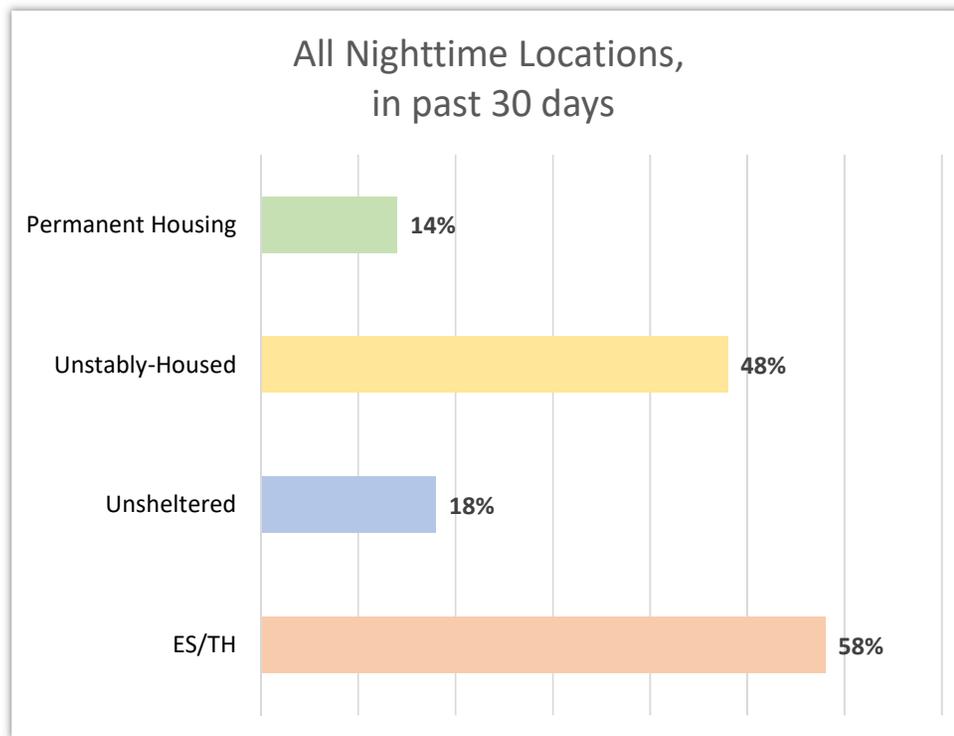
- Increase of 211 youth, with increases in every age and household type category.
- Considerations:
  - Changes in survey tool to include youth who did not provide information on most frequent nighttime location, but who answered questions that they did not have safe and stable housing, either previous month or next month; n=257;
  - Greater coverage.

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Changes, 2017-2018

Population	2018 Shelter or Transitional Housing	2017 Shelter or Transitional Housing	Difference 2017 - 2018	% Change 2017 - 2018
<b>All Persons</b>				
All Persons	464	493	-29	-6%
<b>Household Composition</b>				
<b>Singles</b>	283	246	37	15%
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	269	230	39	17%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors (Under 18)</i>	14	16	-2	-13%
<b>Family Heads of Household (HoH)</b>	181	247	-66	-27%
<i>Transition Age Youth (18 - 24)</i>	181	247	-66	-27%
<i>Minors (Under 18)</i>	0	0	0	0%

- There was a 6% decrease in the total number of youth counted in a transitional housing or emergency shelter programs during the nights of the Youth Count.
- However, decrease is driven by families only, 15% increase in singles.
- Decrease in families is consistent with system-wide trends and could be due in part to closure of D.C. General between 2017-2018.

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Totals



- 28% of youth surveyed stayed in more than one of the four nighttime locations in the previous 30 days.
- Movement within each category was also very common.

# Nighttime Locations	%
One	72%
Two	19%
Three	7%
Four	1%

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Demographics

## **AGE**

- Transition Age Youth (TAY) make up the largest share of the count: 94%.
- Minors make up only 6%.

## **HOUSEHOLD STATUS**

- Over half of the youth counted in the 2018 youth count were single (59%).
- Young families headed by a TAY or minor HoH make up 41% of the population.

## **RACE/ETHNICITY**

- Largely Black/African-American (87% total); though families tended to be more so than singles (93% compared with 83%).
- Mostly Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx (91% total); higher rate of Hispanic/Latinx singles than families (11% compared with 5%).



# 2018 Youth Count DC: Demographics

## GENDER & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- Combined, the population is largely female and heterosexual.
- The total population is **29% LGBTQ+**



<b>Gender</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>100%</b>
Female	757	57%
Male	479	36%
Trans Female	52	4%
Trans Male	18	1%
Different Gender**	14	1%
Data Not Collected	8	

\*\*Includes Gender Non-conforming; Genderqueer/Non-Binary; Different Gender.

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>100%</b>
Heterosexual	831	73%
Orientation Other Than Heterosexual	306	27%
Don't Know	0	0%
Data Not Collected	191	

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Demographics

## *GENDER & SEXUAL ORIENTATION:*

### Singles v. Families

<b>LGBTQ+   SINGLES</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>100%</b>
Yes	276	38%
No	456	62%
Data Not Collected	64	

<b>LGBTQ+   FAMILIES</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>100%</b>
Yes	58	14%
No	365	86%
Data Not Collected	123	

- Between singles and families, the share of LGBTQ+ youth is vastly different, with singles nearly 40% LGBTQ+.
- Additionally, 89% of families are headed by a female, whereas 55% of singles are men.

## Slide 18

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**WK(2)** I think these data points get confusing - can we just stick to the number of LGBTQ identifying youth? Instead of pulling out the Sexual Orientation other than heterosexual.

Waller, Kimberly (EOM), 2/26/2019

**WK(4)** I also would love to include the information about families and gender makeup - our system does not see the 50 or so male heads of household or trans households - but clearly they are there.

Waller, Kimberly (EOM), 2/26/2019

**EY1** Alright, I'll just separate them on two different slides

Elisabeth Young, 2/27/2019

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Demographics

## GENDER & SEXUAL ORIENTATION:

### Families

- The family system is typically thought of as female & heterosexual, however, looking at young families, there is more variety than that.
- 49 households headed by a male, and 10 households headed by a trans parent.
- 52 households headed by a parent who is not heterosexual.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>100%</b>
Female	483	89%
Male	49	9%
Trans Female	9	2%
Trans Male	1	0.2%
Different Gender**	2	0.4%
Data Not Collected	2	

*\*\*Includes Gender Non-conforming; Genderqueer/Non-Binary; Different Gender.*

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>100%</b>
Heterosexual	367	88%
Orientation Other Than Heterosexual	52	12%
Don't Know	0	0%
Data Not Collected	127	

## Slide 19

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**WK(2)** I think these data points get confusing - can we just stick to the number of LGBTQ identifying youth? Instead of pulling out the Sexual Orientation other than heterosexual.

Waller, Kimberly (EOM), 2/26/2019

**WK(4)** I also would love to include the information about families and gender makeup - our system does not see the 50 or so male heads of household or trans households - but clearly they are there.

Waller, Kimberly (EOM), 2/26/2019

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Demographics

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- In 2018, we implemented a new way to capture sexual orientation that is more “youth friendly”.
- This “scaled” method is recommended by Voices of Youth Count.
- Bears out in higher share of count orientation other than heterosexual.
- Singles:
  - HMIS: 76% Heterosexual
  - Youth Count Survey: 62% Heterosexual
- Families:
  - HMIS: 97% Heterosexual
  - Youth Count Survey: 78% Heterosexual

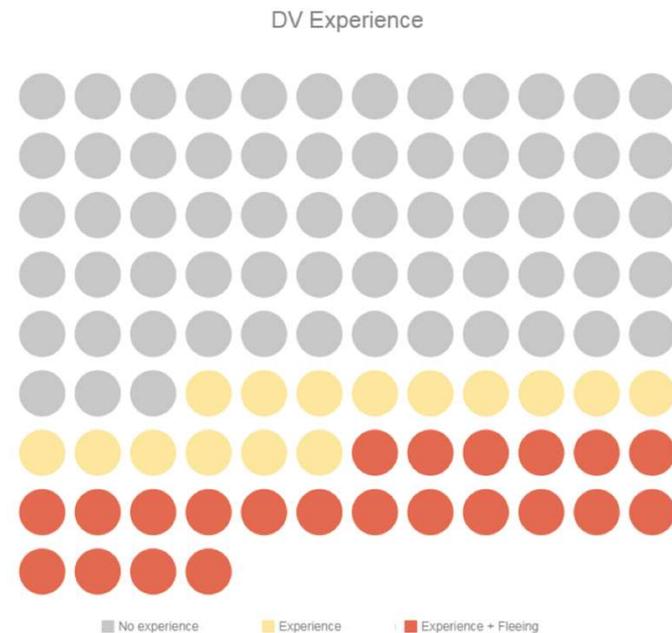
Sexual Orientation   HMIS	475	100%
Heterosexual	290	90%
Gay	12	4%
Lesbian	6	2%
Bisexual	10	3%
Questioning/Unsure	6	2%
Don't Know	0	-
Data Not Collected	151	

Sexual Orientation   Survey	853	100%
100% Heterosexual	541	67%
Mostly Heterosexual	41	5%
Bisexual	105	13%
Mostly Gay or Lesbian	38	5%
100% Gay or Lesbian	65	8%
Not sexual attracted to males or females	13	2%
Other Orientation	10	1%
Don't Know My Orientation	0	-
Data Not Collected	40	

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Violence & Trauma

## *DOMESTIC/INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE*

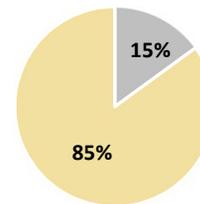
- 31% have experienced violence from a parent or guardian.
- 32% have experienced violence from an intimate partner or spouse.
- Well over half (59%) of those who have experienced any type of domestic/intimate partner violence attribute their current housing situation to that violence.



# 2018 Youth Count DC: Violence & Trauma

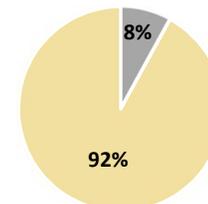
- Rates of survival sex is similar between families and singles.
- Slightly higher rate of experience of sex trafficking in families as compared to singles (10% compare to 7%).
- Considered a low estimate, due to sensitive questions.

Has Engaged in Survival Sex



■ Singles ■ Families

Survivor of Sex Trafficking



■ Singles ■ Families

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Health

## Health Conditions and Disabilities

	All	Singles	Family
Mental Health	28%	32%	20%
Chronic Health (includes HIV/AIDS)	8%	10%	5%
Developmental Disability	6%	8%	3%
Physical Disability	3%	4%	1%
Other Condition	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%

- Single youth reported higher rates of all conditions and disabilities than youth-headed families.
- Mental health conditions were most reported among both household types.

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Health

## Problems with Drugs or Alcohol

<b>Combined</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Family</b>
Yes	14%	20%	5%

<b>Youth Count Surveys</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Family</b>
Yes	20%	23%	11%

<b>HMIS Records Only</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Family</b>
Yes	2%	6%	.4%

- 20% of single youth reported having issues with drugs or alcohol, compared with only 5% of youth heads of family households.
- HMIS records for both singles and families show much lower rates of problems with alcohol and drugs than responses to the youth count survey.

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Systems Involvement

<b>Child Welfare</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Family</b>
Lifetime Experience	26%	30%	20%
<i>Aged-out into Homelessness*</i>	69%	65%	79%

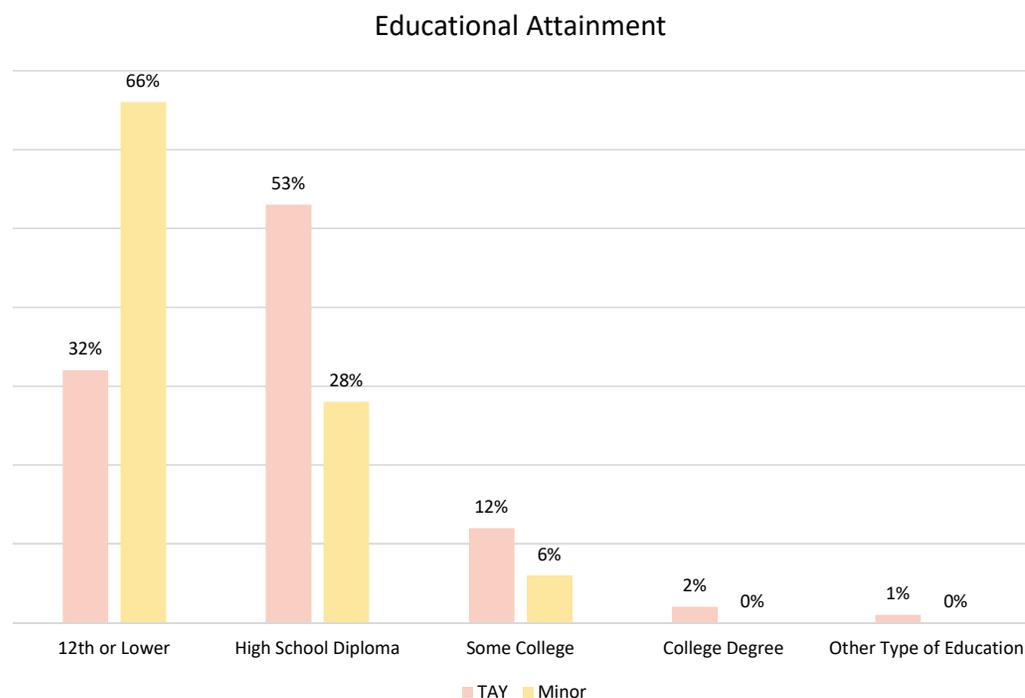
*\*Out of "Yes" Lifetime Experience*

<b>Juvenile Justice/Prison</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Family</b>
Lifetime Experience	28%	40%	31%
<i>Exited into Homelessness*</i>	67%	68%	62%

*\*Out of "Yes" Lifetime Experience*

# 2018 Youth Count DC: Education

- Only 46% of unaccompanied minors and minor heads of family households said that they were currently enrolled in school, though 66% said their highest grade level was 12<sup>th</sup> grade or lower.
- 20% of TAYs said that they were currently enrolled in a school program and nearly 1/3 said that their highest grade level was 12<sup>th</sup> grade or lower.
- Youth who are heads of family households had higher rates of high school completion than singles (56% compared to 47%), yet singles reported having completed either some college and obtaining a college degree at higher rates than families (15% compared to 11%).



# 2018 Youth Count DC: Employment & Benefits

- 29% of both singles and youth who are heads of a family reported receiving income from some kind of employment.
- 3 out of 4 youth families reported receiving some kind of public benefits.
- Less than half (46%) of single youth are receiving some kind of public benefits.



# Through the eyes of youth...

“College has been the hardest thing...to this point. I'll continue to do my best.”

“I have a very ill mother who took care of me my whole childhood. She's in a bad living situation and I'm trying to find a way where I can get into a program or something that allows me to take care of her.”

“I have means to pay for housing. I just need somewhere to rent a room.”

“Metro needs to get cheaper. [I'm] having a hard time going to job fairs and hospital due to metro expense.”

“[I need] more support to help me grow and have a stronger foundation.”

“I can pay for my own place, but with my baby it's not just rent, it's pampers, formula, food and so much more. It's not enough.”

“I miss being home & feeling safe.”

# Brainstorming Questions

- What does the data tell us about youth experiencing homelessness in DC?
- What impact does this have on the homeless services system? Other systems?
- What resources are needed to serve all youth experiencing homelessness?

